

International Bulletin

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Meeting of the Minister and the General Definitory with the new Provincial Ministers and Custodes

Rome, 11th-19th May 2026

From the 11th to 19th May, at the General Curia of the Order of Friars Minor, the Minister General and the General Definitory met with the new Provincial Ministers and Custodes for a time of formation and dialogue, aimed at accompanying the service of authority in the Entities and strengthening the life and mission of the Order. The meeting opened with a welcome and a presentation of General Curia's structure. Subsequently, the participants shared, in small groups and in plenary, the joys, hopes, challenges and expectations of the Entities.

In his speech on the theme "The charism illuminates the service of authority in a change of era", the Minister General reminded the Ministers and Custodes that the charism is a gift of the Spirit intended for the service of the community and the mission, and not a heritage to be preserved in a private way. He emphasised that "the charism is not an idea to be



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kept in a display case, but a living force that directs our service,” capable of offering concrete criteria for reading reality and making decisions. In continuity with the recent Magisterium, he insisted that authority is called to safeguard and revive this gift, promoting responsible freedom in our brothers and sisters.

In this perspective, he highlighted listening as the first responsibility of those who are at the service of authority: a real and profound listening, capable of recognising the voice of the Spirit in fraternal life. He invited the Ministers not to be reduced to ad-

ministrators, but to be “animators of the charism”, attentive to personal accompaniment and community discernment. As an examination, he asked a question that ran through the entire meeting: “Who listens to me, who am I in the service of authority, and whom am I obeying at this time?”, so that the service of governance remains anchored to mission and charism.

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Read the Minister General's speech:
[Italiano](#) - [English](#) - [Español](#)

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Government of the Order



Pentecost Letter of the Minister General 2026

Beyond the Centenaries: the Spirit who gives life



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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you peace!

These days we are celebrating the eighth centenary of Saint Francis's encounter with sister death. We have prepared over three years, retracing the final stages of his journey: the Rule and the Christmas experience at Greccio, the Stigmata at La Verna, the Canticle of the Creatures, and now finally his death. I feel it is important to offer a word that might help us grasp the unity of this journey, so that the Centenary does not end as just another celebration, leaving no sense of completion. I see the risk of monumentalizing the figure of Francis, freezing certain aspects of his life as in a snapshot and losing sight of the inner movement that unifies them. It is precisely here that we rediscover the gift that the Lord, in the Spirit, gave to the Church and the world through Francis of Assisi: his charism. That is why I am reaching out to you with this letter at the beginning of the Novena of Pentecost. Let us

invoke the life-giving Holy Spirit, the true Minister General of the Order, that he may open us to his light and his fire for a renewed evangelical vitality. How much we all need this—all of us in the Franciscan Family, and the world with us!

Download the full text of the Letter: [Italiano](#) - [English](#) - [Español](#) - [Deutsch](#) - [Français](#) - [Hrvatski](#) - [Polski](#) - [Português](#) - [日本語](#)



General Curia Agenda



- ✓ From the 22nd to 26th May, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and Br. Konrad Cholewa, Definitor General, will be in Poland for the following appointments: on the 22nd May, they will participate in the Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in Krakow; on the 23rd-24th they will be in Mount St. Anne for the Meeting of the Franciscan Family on the VIII Centenary of the Transitus; on the 25th and 26th in Krakow they will meet the formators and those in formation of the Interprovincial House of the Temporary Professed.
- ✓ From the 27th to the 29th May, Br. Massimo will participate in the meeting of the Union of Superiors General in Rome; from the 31st May to 6th June, he will be in Spain for a visit to the Province of the Immaculate Conception.
- ✓ From the 26th – 29th May, Br. Edson Augusto Nhathuve, Assistant Secretary General for Formation and Studies, will participate in the plenum of the Major Superiors of all the African Entities OFM in Lusaka, Zambia.
- ✓ From the 27th – 11th June, Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas and Br. Dennis Tayo, respectively Secretary and Animator General for Mission and Evangelisation, will be in the Philippines for the Interobediential Missionary Course of Asia (IMCA) 2026.
- ✓ From the 28th May 8 June, Br. John Wong, Definitor General for Asia and Oceania, will visit the Autonomous Custody of St. Anthony (Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei).

Franciscan
Bookmark

Francesco Della Rovere (Sisto IV).

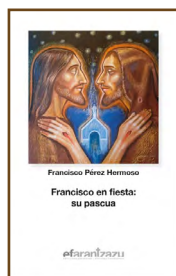
Formazione e attività tra Savona e Padova.

Atti del Convegno di studio
(Savona, 15-16 novembre 2024 - Padova, 21-22
novembre 2024)



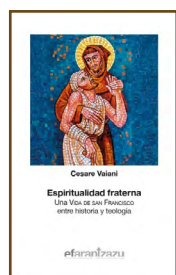
A cura di Luciano Bertazzo
Centro Studi Antoniani

Francisco en fiesta:
su pascua



Fr. Francisco Pérez Hermoso, OFM
Ediciones Franciscanas
Arantzazu

Espiritualidad fraterna.
Una Vida de san Francisco
entre historia y teología



Fr. Cesare Vaiani, OFM
Ediciones Franciscanas
Arantzazu

Visit of the Minister General to the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Bacabal, Maranhão, Brazil,

24th-26th April 2026



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In the city of Bacabal, Maranhão, Brazil, from the 24th to the 26th of April 2026, the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary gathered all the friars to welcome the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, and the Visitor General, Br. César Kulkamp. The purpose of the visit was to know and encourage the journey of each brother and to become aware of the different realities in which the friars live. The meeting was divided into various parts to optimise time: there were individual interviews with the groups of seminarians, with the formation team, with the Provincial Definitory and with all the friars of the Province, who, with open hearts and attentive, listened to the words addressed to them. Br. Massimo Fusarelli began his speech by starting from the report presented during the last canonical visitation, reminding the friars that it is time to put into practice, with courage and audacity, what has been proposed. He reiterated that the Order is not an organisation that administers parishes, shrines, or schools, but a fraternity that bears witness to the Gospel. The exchange between the brothers has fostered dialogues on other topics, such as the economic and administrative situation, vocational accompaniment, the crisis of identity and secularisation, the management of the patrimony, and questioning how all this consumes time that could be dedicated exclusively to fraternal life. The Minister General asked for the fronts of the mission to be restructured to contribute, among other things, to the quality of life of the brothers, giving priority to the fundamental aspects of Franciscan charity. It is not a question of doing more, but of doing it with quality, since fraternal life is a privileged encounter with God. The culminating moment of the meeting was the Eucharistic celebration in the parish church of São Francisco das Chagas, presided over by Br. Massimo Fusarelli, which brought together all the friars, the Franciscan Family and many faithful. We thank the Minister General and the Visitor General for their fraternal interaction, aware of the reflections and actions that will be undertaken on the basis of their valuable orientation.



Visit of the Minister General to the Franciscan Province of St. Anthony in Brazil

A moment of sharing, reflection and hope



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From the 27th-29th April, 2026, the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, together with the Definitor General for Latin America, Br. César Kulkamp, OFM, made a fraternal visit to the Franciscan Province of St. Anthony of Brazil in the north-east of the country. The visit was aimed at strengthening the bonds of fraternity among the friars, promoting moments of listening, dialogue and reflection on the Franciscan mission today, and encouraging the vocational and pastoral journey of the Province.

The visit began on the evening of the 27th April at the friary of Our Lady of the Snows, a formation house for the temporarily professed, in Olinda, the first Franciscan friary in Brazil. The welcome took place in an atmosphere of simple joy, with expressions of the local culture, and gave rise to a time of

coexistence in which the friars shared experiences, challenges and gratitude for fraternal life.

On the 28th April, at the friary of St. Anthony in Lagoa Seca (Paraíba), a Provincial meeting was held with the participation of novices, temporary professed and solemnly professed, together with friars from different fraternities. In his speech, the Minister General recalled some of Brazil's social challenges and emphasised that "Franciscan fraternity is not structured in pyramids, but in circles, where power is service, and one washes the feet of the other."

In the same context, he invited us to cultivate a true culture of encounter, capable of opening paths towards a more just society, and encouraged us to read reality with discernment, in the light of Pope Francis' reflections on the "globalisation of

indifference". He also observed that the time of downsizing that many religious families are going through requires, first of all, a conversion of outlook and mission.

Also participating were the Poor Clare Sisters of the monasteries of Campina Grande (Paraíba), Feira de Santana (Bahia), Mossoró (Rio Grande do Norte) and Canindé (Ceará), as well as representatives of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) of Lagoa Seca, a sign of communion and shared journey in the Franciscan Family.

On the 29th April, after Mass, Br. Massimo and Br. César met with the Provincial Definitor, visited the novitiate house and visited the community of the Poor Clare Sisters in Campina Grande. The day ended in the Convent of St. Anthony in Recife (Pernambuco), with a fraternal dinner that sealed these days of closeness and dialogue.

Br. Massimo's words resounded as an invitation to conversion, closeness to the poor and the building of an increasingly evangelical fraternity, marked by service, mercy and the culture of encounter. The joy of all those present made the richness of the Franciscan charism lived in communion even more visible.

Concluding the visit in an atmosphere of gratitude and hope, the friars renewed the certainty that fraternity continues to be a prophetic sign and living witness of the Gospel in today's world.

A Shared Journey to Strengthen the Franciscan Missionary Presence in Australia

Meeting in the General Curia, 7 May 2026



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the experience of his Province, which is engaged in accompanying migrant chaplains in different parts of the world. He expressed gratitude to the Australian Province for the opportunity to address these realities together, while also emphasising the desire to strengthen fraternal bonds with the brothers sent on mission.

The Ministers of Slovenia and Croatia likewise highlighted the importance of the meeting in gaining a deeper understanding of the concrete reality of the Franciscan presence in Australia and in making shared decisions for the pastoral care of migrant communities that has been present in the country for more than seventy years. The meeting concluded with an agreement on a concrete plan for the future. Common processes and specific programmes of work were defined for each collaboration through to the end of 2026. The Ministers will meet together again in December, continuing a fruitful fraternal journey of dialogue, shared responsibility, and common mission.

On Thursday, 7 May 2026, an important meeting dedicated to the missionary presence in Australia of friars from the Provinces of the Conference of St Jerome took place at the General Curia in Rome. Present at the meeting were the Minister of the Province of the “Holy Spirit” in Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand, Br Stephen Bliss; the Minister of the Province of the “Holy Cross” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Br Zdravko Dadić; the Minister and Vicar of the Province of “Saints Cyril and Methodius” in Croatia, Br Ivica Jagodić and Br Mario Zubak; and the Minister of the Province of the “Holy Cross” in Slovenia, Br Christian Gostečnik, together with their respective secretaries and a canon lawyer.

Also present were the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, and the General Definitors for the Slavic Conferences and the Asia-Oceania Conferences, Br Konrad Cholewa and Br John Wong. The moment of fraternity and reflection focused on the present and future of the missionary presence in Australia of the friars from these southern Slavic Provinces, a presence historically connected with the Australian Province. In his opening greeting, Br Massimo expressed the hope that the meeting would be

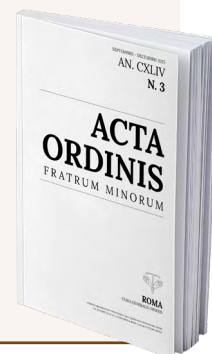
“a time of encounter filled with great joy and hope”, capable of fostering not only a sincere dialogue on present realities, but also “a shared vision for the future of the Franciscan mission in that part of the world”. During the meeting, various questions concerning the current situation of the missionary presence were addressed, both in relation to the local Church and within the context of Australian civil authorities. Reflection also focused on concrete forms of collaboration and fuller participation in the life of the Australian Province, while valuing the bonds of fraternity and gratitude already existing among the Provinces involved.

In the days prior to the meeting, the Ministers of the three Provinces of the Conference of St Jerome had already held separate meetings with the Minister of the Australian Province to discuss administrative, financial, safeguarding, ongoing formation, and fraternal collaboration matters. Br Stephen Bliss, who chaired the meeting, underlined how this process had strengthened the sense of interconnection among the Ministers. “We looked at the difficulties honestly. There were surprise, pain, and emotion, but the strength of our fraternity has grown.” Br Zdravko Dadić shared

Acta Ordinis

The latest issue of
Acta Ordinis 2025/3:

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Franciscan Centenaries



Francis and History. Between novitas and traditio International Conference on the Eighth Centenary of the Death of St. Francis of Assisi - Rome, 25th-26th May 2026



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FRANCIS AND HISTORY. BETWEEN NOVITAS AND TRADITIO

ROME, 25-26 MAY 2026



On the Eighth Centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi (1226-2026), the International Conference of "Francis and History. Between *novitas* and *traditio*" is jointly promoted by three institutions – the Higher School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies of the Pontifical University "Antoniano", the Italian Historical Institute for the Middle Ages and

the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences – which include among their major study and research interests the historical investigation of religious life in the Middle Ages in its diversified and multiform expressions, among which the biographical, institutional and hagiographic story of St. Francis of Assisi stands out for its paradigmatic character and for its centuries-old and still very vivid memorial echo.

The International Study Symposium aims to revisit the figure, work, and legacy of Francis of Assisi in a broad and articulated historical, institutional, and literary context, in order to fully grasp both his specific, singular and unprecedented charismatic figure and the tangencies and resonances with the complex foundational, canon-

ical and narrative experimentation of medieval religious life. A comparative and diachronic rereading of St. Francis of Assisi in continuity and discontinuity with medieval religious experimentation allows us to appreciate ever better its exceptional significance, in the dynamic relationship between *novitas* and *traditio* in the sequela Christi, which, in the testimony of St. Francis, knows a sublime point of arrival and a continuous and fruitful restart.

The appointments:

- 25th May: Auditorium Pontificia Università "Antoniano", Viale Manzoni 1
- 26th May morning: Italian Historical Institute for the Middle Ages, Piazza dell'Orologio 4

Chapters



Czech Republic, Chapter of St. Wenceslas Province Prague, May 4-6, 2026



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From May 4-6, 2026, the friars of the Czech St. Wenceslas Province, gathered at the Convent of Our Lady of the Snows, in Prague, for their Provincial Chapter, which was also attended in the first days by Br. Konrad Cholewa, General Definitor.

During these days, filled with prayer and fraternal fellowship, the friars discussed the transformation of the Province into an Autonomous Custody by 2029. They also recommended establishing a new formation community in Hájek near Prague and

launching a pilot foundation project to relieve the brothers of concerns about material matters. They further called for a greater and more coordinated evangelization effort and an authentic presence on social media.

The new Provincial Government was elected as follows:

- Minister Provincial: Br. Bonaventura Ondřej Čapek;
- Vicar Provincial: Br. Jakub František Sadílek;
- Provincial Definitors: Br. Jeroným František Jurka, Br. Jan Kapistrán Tomáš Gajdoš, Br. Bernard Ondřej Mléčka, Br. Šimon Jakub Růžička.

Malta, Chapter of the Province of St. Paul the Apostle

Br. Ramon Farrugia is the new Minister Provincial



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With gratitude to God and filled with hope for the future of our Province, we are pleased to inform you that, during the Provincial Chapter of the Franciscan Province of St. Paul the Apostle, in Malta, the following friars have been elected to serve and guide our fraternity for the coming years: Br. Ramon Farrugia, OFM – Provincial Minister; Br. Stephen Magro, OFM – Provincial Vicar; Br. Mar-

tin Coleiro, OFM, Br. Stephen Sciberras, OFM, Br. Walter Vassallo, OFM, Br. Clive Camilleri, OFM – Provincial Definitors.

We thank the Lord for the generous availability of these brothers who have accepted this responsibility in a spirit of service and fraternity, according to the charism of Saint Francis of Assisi. We kindly ask you to keep them in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit may enlighten and strengthen them as they carry out their mission with wisdom, humility, discernment, and fidelity to the Gospel.

May the Lord continue to bless our Province and guide us always in the service of the Church and of God's people.

Br. Walter Vassallo OFM, Secretary of the Chapter



News from the Entities

Vietnam, dedication of the new church in the village of Bla

16th April 2026



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Last April 16, the community at the Bla isolated mission station (Vietnam), experienced a day of joy and celebration for the dedication of the village's new church: not a fleeting happiness, but the joy of life triumphing over death and of hope overcoming all darkness.

The Bla mission station has endured many ups and downs. Starting in 1993, a few ethnic minority people - guided by a Vietnamese Catholic family - began to learn about Catholicism. They persevered through three or four years of study before

being baptized as children of God. The distance from their village to the catechism class was long - over twenty kms - flanked by dense brush and forest. The road was dusty in the summer and muddy and slippery in the rainy season. Their means of travel back then was an old, beat-up bicycle or simply walking; every few days something would break, forcing them to push the bike the rest of the way.

These hardships forged strong souls, resilient and steadfast in faith. Even when they were sum-

moned to the local commune committee for interrogation, threatened with guns, pressured to renounce their faith, or forced into hard labor for days, they stood firm. Mr. Arich told the authorities: *"We cannot abandon our faith because it is in our souls and our hearts. Faith is not like clothes that you can take off whenever you want. Therefore, we cannot give it up."* Instead of fear, their love for God grew more passionate, urging them to courageously proclaim the Gospel to everyone and neighboring villages.



As time passed quietly, the seeds they sowed began to bear fruit. Every year at the Easter Vigil, new members became children of the Light, children of God. As the numbers grew, so did the need for a place to gather for prayer, the Rosary, sharing the Word of God, and celebrating Mass. Thus, in 2010, a chapel was established thanks to the generosity and love for God of Mr. Philip Plâl. It was just a small guest room. Gradually, that small room was renovated and expanded.

The authorities created difficulties, forbidding expansion and even demolishing parts of it. However, faced with the strong will and loyalty of the villagers, the authorities eventually allowed religious activities to continue without further interference. Yet the tiny chapel could not meet the needs of the growing congregation, so the Brother Guardian of the Pleiku Fraternity and the Brother in charge of the Bla mission station, together with the villagers, contributed labor and resources, determined to build a new, dignified chapel. With the suggestion of the Provincial Minister and support from the Province, the Fraternity, benefactors, relatives, and locals,

a new chapel was finally completed and blessed after eight long months.

The Central Highlands is known as a land of sun and wind, and truly it is. In the sweltering heat of April, on the morning of Thursday, April 16, 2026, the Mass was solemnly celebrated. It was presided over by the Bishop of the Kontum Diocese, mons. Aloisio, alongside his Vicar, and the Minister of the Vietnamese Province "St. Francis of Assisi", Br. John of God Nguyen. There were also many priests, religious, and faithful, as well as benefactors and relatives from far and wide. This vast and vibrant communion was a beautiful sign of the local Church – a Church united in faith and love.

From early morning, crowds rushed from all directions to the new sanctuary, creating an atmosphere full of joy, happiness, and holiness. The festive mood was amplified by the welcoming ceremony, where the sound of gongs echoed alongside the smooth, graceful *Xoang* dance of the Bahnar youths.

Before the Mass, at 8:00 AM, the Minister Provincial gave a profound presentation on the Heritage of St. Francis and the core values of Franciscan spirituality. He spoke of radical conversion stemming from two encounters: meeting the leper and meeting the Crucified Jesus at San Damiano. The second heritage is love for the Church and the Eucharist. The third is living in fraternity - being brothers to all people and all creation. Finally, it is the proclamation of the Gospel of peace. His sharing illuminated the meaning of the event:

building a sanctuary not just with physical materials, but through a life of poverty, humility, and brotherhood, rooted in the Church and contemplation of the Eucharist and being a proclaimer of faith.



During the Mass, through the liturgy and homily of the Bishop, the community was invited to realize that a church is not just a place for celebrations, but a home of communion - a place where everyone finds peace and is nourished in their life of faith. The joy of this dedication does not end with a finished building; it opens a new journey: building a living community, faithful to the Gospel, and becoming witnesses in the world.

The joy of that day is the joy of a people reborn. From silent sacrifices, sweat, and persistent prayers, everything has crystallized into a sacred place where God dwells among His people. This event will serve as a reminder for all the friars: to remain faithful to the vocation of living “minority” within the Church; to stay close to God’s people, especially communities in need; to become an instrument of peace, contributing

to the building of the Church through a simple life of service. May God, through the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi, continue to bless the Bla community, the Bishop, the priests, religious, benefactors, and all of us - so that each person may become a “living stone” in the house of the Church.

Br. Duc Tri, OFM

Franciscan friars in Sri Lanka renew their mission

Assembly of the Saint Joseph Vaz Foundation



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In Kandy, Sri Lanka, from 27 to 29 April, the friars of the Saint Joseph Vaz Foundation gathered for the Foundation Assembly, a time of prayer and discernment that reaffirmed their desire to live the Gospel in the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi.



With the motto “Rebuilding evangelical fraternity; pilgrims of hope in the spirit of the Transitus of Saint Francis,” the assembly brought together the friars of the Foundation, dependent on the Province of Saint Peter Baptist (Philippines), to reflect on fraternal life and mission within the context of a minority Church. The opening Eucharistic celebration placed the meeting within the horizon of the Eighth Centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis, as a concrete invitation to begin again in conversion and fidelity to the Gospel.

Over the days of work, the friars shared with simplicity the reality of their fraternity, acknowledging gifts and challenges. A conviction emerged strongly in the dialogue: Franciscan identity is sustained first of all by being brothers, even before what they

do. From this certainty, the need to strengthen community life was emphasized, so that the houses do not become merely functional places to live, without a chosen and carefully tended fraternity. For this reason, the brothers renewed their commitment to common prayer, shared life, and regular fraternal meetings in the house as concrete expressions of the vocation they have received.

The assembly also addressed with realism the question of vocations and formation. In the face of difficulties in attracting and accompanying new candidates, the urgency was noted of proposing processes that form young people in life, faith, and discipleship, with solid accompaniment. Along these lines, the restructuring of the aspirants’ program was approved, reshaping it as a broader pastoral initiative for young people, centered on human, Christian, and Franciscan formation, without presuming an immediate choice of consecrated life. The importance of clearer discernment criteria, appropriate safeguarding measures, and the strengthening of the formation team was also underlined.

Regarding mission, the friars recognized the need for a common horizon that helps them live apostolic presence as a fraternity, and not merely as the sum of personal initiatives. With this intention, the priority of closeness to the poor and to those who live on the margins was reaffirmed, and the possibility of reopening missionary presences was considered. Interreligious dialogue was also valued as a significant dimension of the Franciscan presence in Sri Lanka. The discernment included collaboration with Surol, in order to seek greater juridical clarity and better alignment with the Foundation’s proper mission.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) was recognized not as a separate area, but as a con-

stitutive dimension of Franciscan life. The assembly highlighted the importance of integrating justice, inclusion, and participation into formation, fraternal life, and mission, especially where communities are more exposed to poverty and exclusion.

Concerning internal organization, the friars chose to maintain the current structure of the Foundation, remaining available to the guidance of the Province and considering the support of a Provincial Delegate. At the same time, concrete measures of transparency and accountability were defined, including a unified financial system, periodic reports, and a stable monthly allocation for the brothers.

The Foundation Assembly concluded with the approval of twenty resolutions on formation, mission, JPIC, and governance, most of them supported unanimously. In the final message, the Provincial

Minister and President of the assembly, Fr. Lino Gregorio V. Redoblado, OFM, urged the brothers to welcome the centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis as a true time of renewal. He said, "This is not simply a commemoration, but a call to conversion; to begin again with renewed vigor". He added: "Fraternal life is our first witness; we must choose one another each day, with patience, forgiveness, and hope."

The friars returned to their communities with gratitude for a shared journey that, beyond the topics discussed, was experienced as a time of grace. With clearer direction and strengthened unity, the Saint Joseph Vaz Foundation looks to the future with hope, committed to living the Gospel with greater authenticity as brothers and missionaries in Sri Lanka.

Read the [final statement](#)

LIFE in the Order



Priestly Ordinations

26th February, Prov. Sts. Francis and James (Mexico)

Fr. Jesús Adrián Cabrera Jiménez

† 21st April: Br. Francisco María (Abel Patricio) Pacheco Sánchez, Prov. XII Apostles (Peru)

† 18th April: Br. Renato Ghilardi, Prov. St. Francis Stigmatised (Italy)

Information received from the General Secretariat



Deceased Brothers

† 7th May: Br. Raphael (Ludwig) Konrad, Prov. St. Elizabeth (Germany)

† 6th May: Br. Paolo Dozio, Prov. St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 30th April: Br. José Antonio Santacruz Santos, Prov. Sts. Francis and James (Mexico)





OFS, National Elective Chapter in the Central African Republic Bangui, 8th -10th May 2026



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From the 8th to 10th May 2026, the brothers and sisters of the national fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the Central African Republic, from six OFS Regional Councils, had the joy of gathering at the Parish of St. Anthony of Padua in the suburb of Bimbo, Bangui, to celebrate their Elective Chapter. On Friday, the 8th May, the official opening of the Chapter took place with Holy Mass presided over by Br. Saturnin Shadrac Langba Zounga, OFM, and concelebrated by Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM - General Spiritual Assistant - and Br. Boris Guessikane, OFMCap - Regional Spiritual Assistant -, who also opened the assembly of the Chapter.

Subsequently, Adolph Assagba, OFS, delegate of Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFS requested a moment of silence in memory of the OFS members who have died in the last three years. At the same time, the local spiritual assistant of the western region in the diocese of Bouar, Br. Tomasz Switala, OFMCap, arrived. The presentation of the programme by the Secretary of the Chapter was unanimously approved by all the members of the assembly. Those present then followed the speech of the outgoing National Minister, Magloire Mal-

issaba, OFS, who welcomed the delegates of the CIOFS and all the participants, reminding them of the joy of living in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ and in St. Francis. The Elective Chapter was presided over by Adolph Assagba, OFS and witnessed by Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM, who represented the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants (CAS). The Chapter was attended by 40 capitulars, 7 observers and 6 members of YouFra.

In the afternoon, the report of the outgoing National Minister was presented, who expressed his gratitude to each member of the outgoing Council for their collaborative and fraternal spirit and creativity, making the work of the Council easy and fruitful. Afterwards, the Treasurer's report was presented. On Saturday, the 9th May, the capitulars began the day very early, with the celebration of Holy Mass in preparation for the elective session. The capitulars re-elected Magloire Malissaba as National Minister and Guy Alain Segoroye as International Councillor for the next three years.

On Sunday, the installation of the new Council took place during the parish Mass, in which all the parishioners joined the Franciscan Family to celebrate the official opening of the jubilee year of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. After the Holy Mass, everyone gathered for a moment of sharing, characterized by great jubilation and thanksgiving for the gift of the Franciscan charism. Finally, the time has come to greet the delegates of CIOFS and to wish each of them a safe journey back to the different regions, bringing with them the message of the Chapter to work for the unity of the Franciscan Family.

In the photo the new National Council of the OFS of the Central African Republic

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Ordo Fratrum Minorum
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